

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-94 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matters of these claims in the future.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c), this listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-94. (Canceled)

95. (New) A process for the manufacture of a packaging material, the process comprising
(i) applying a tie layer of molten polyolefin to a water-absorbent layer,
(ii) optionally exposing the product of (i) to pressure,
(iii) applying an outer layer of polyolefin to the tie layer,
(iv) exposing the product of (iii) to pressure, and
(v) allowing the material to cool,
wherein the tie layer of polyolefin partially impregnates the water-absorbent layer.

96. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein the outer layer is molten when applied.

97. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein the polyolefin is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, polypropylene, or mixtures thereof.

98. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein the outer layer, the tie layer or both the outer layer and the tie layer further comprise at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a colour agent, an adhesive,

a surface slip agent and mixtures thereof.

99. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein the outer and tie layers have the same composition.

100. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein the tie layer has a thickness of from about 5 to about 10 microns.

101. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein the outer layer has a thickness of from about 15 to about 30 microns.

102. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein the outer layer, the tie layer or both the outer layer and the tie layer is/are applied by extrusion and/or pressure is applied by passing the layers through a nip point and the outer and tie layers form a solid proximal to, or at, the nip point.

103. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein the pressure is from about 400 to about 800 kPa.

104. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein the outer layer, the tie layer or both the outer layer and the tie layer of molten polyolefin has a temperature of from about 200°C to about 300°C.

105. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein step(v) comprises passing the material over a series of rollers, and then winding the material on a reel.

106. (New) A process according to claim 95, wherein the process further comprises bonding a water vapour-permeable inner layer to the water-absorbent layer, wherein the water vapour-permeable inner layer is substantially impermeable to liquid water in the water-absorbent layer.

107. (New) A process according to claim 106, wherein the inner layer is bonded to the water- absorbent layer over less than 5% of the surface area of the inner layer.
108. (New) A packaging material comprising
- (i) a liquid water- and water vapour-impermeable outer layer,
 - (ii) a water-absorbent layer,
 - (iii) a tie layer bonded to the outer layer and the water-absorbent layer, and
 - (iv) a water vapour-permeable inner layer which is substantially impermeable to liquid water in the water-absorbent layer,
- wherein the tie layer partially impregnates the water-absorbent layer.
109. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the water vapour- permeable layer is bonded to the water absorbent layer.
110. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the outer layer comprises a petrochemical- or plant-derived organocarbon.
111. (New) A packaging material according to claim 110, wherein the organocarbon is a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, polypropylene and mixtures thereof.
112. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the outer layer and the tie layer comprise a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, polypropylene and mixtures thereof.
113. (New) A packaging material according to claim 112, wherein the outer layer, the tie layer or both the outer layer and the tie layer further comprise an additive selected from the group consisting of a colour agent, an

adhesive, a surface slip agent and mixtures thereof.

114. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the outer layer and tie layer have the same composition.
115. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the tie layer has a thickness of from about 5 to about 10 microns.
116. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the outer layer has a thickness of from about 15 to about 30 microns.
117. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the outer layer contacts at least 90% of a surface of the tie layer.
118. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the water-absorbent layer contacts at least 90% of a surface of the tie layer.
119. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the water-absorbent layer is able to adsorb at least 50 g of water per m².
120. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the water-absorbent layer comprises cellulose fibres.
121. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the water-absorbent layer has a specific weight of from about 15 to about 30 g/m².
122. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the water-absorbent layer has a thickness of from about 60 to about 95 microns.
123. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108,

wherein the water-absorbent layer has a machine direction tensile of from about 15N/75 mm to about 35N/75 mm.

124. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the water-absorbent layer further comprises a bioactive molecule, or a precursor thereof where the bioactive molecule is released upon exposure to water.

125. (New) A packaging material according to claim 124, wherein the bioactive molecule is selected from the group consisting of SO₂, 1-methylcyclopropene and a mixture thereof.

126. (New) A packaging material according to claim 108, wherein the inner layer comprises hydrophobic polyolefin.

127. (New) A packaging material according to claim 126, wherein the hydrophobic polyolefin is a spun-bond polypropylene.

128. (New) A packaging material according claim 108, wherein the inner layer is bonded to the water-absorbent layer over less than 5% of the surface area of the inner layer.

129. (New) A packaging material comprising

- (i) a liquid water- and water vapour-impermeable outer layer,
- (ii) a water-absorbent layer, and
- (iii) a water vapour-permeable inner layer which is substantially impermeable to liquid water in the water-absorbent layer,

wherein the water-absorbent layer comprises cellulose fibres and has a specific weight of from about 15 to about 30 g/m² and a thickness of from about 60 to about 95 microns, and wherein the water vapour-permeable inner layer is bonded to the water-absorbent layer.

130. (New) A packaging material produced according to claim 108, further comprising a supporting layer that provides

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mechanical strength and which contacts the outer layer.

131. (New) A packaging material according to claim 130, wherein the supporting layer is a corrugated paper carton.

132. (New) A method of storing and/or transporting a perishable product, the method comprising inserting the product into, or substantially wrapping the product with, packaging material according to claim 108.